

1948

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Jan 13, 1948

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
COLUMBIA

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I am herewith returning without my signature House Bill No., 688, Senate Bill No. 631, Act No. 556, entitled: "TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS FOR SULLIVAN'S ISLAND TO ACQUIRE THE PROPERTIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA KNOWN AS FORT MOULTRIE AND MARSHALL RESERVATION ON SAID SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, WHICH HAVE BEEN OR MAY BE DECLARED SURPLUS; ETC."

Feeling that the matter was of State-wide ~~public~~ interest, I appointed a committee to consider the best way of handling this matter in the public interest and make recommendations to me thereon. The Chairman of the Board of Township Commissioners for Sullivan's Island was a member of this Committee.

The Committee inquired fully into the matter and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"It is recommended, seconded, and passed unanimously that the Committee recommend to the Governor that the State of South Carolina acquire the government property on Sullivan's Island and that on account of the historical value of the old forts and other points of interest, that they be maintained in perpetuity; and that no disposition of the property be made that would be inconsistent with the interests of the residents of the Island; and that due to the recreational and educational values the State make such disposition of it as may be to the best interest of the people of South Carolina."

The Committee further unanimously recommended "that the so-called Marshall Reservation on Sullivan's Island after its acquirement by the State be administered by the Township Commission of Sullivan's Island in accordance with the present existing laws of the State."

I am informed that legislation will be introduced in the Congress of the United States to convey this property to the State of South Carolina

for public purposes.

This would make possible the creation of a State Park in an area of large population where none now exists.

The State has an agency to negotiate with the government for the acquisition of surplus property, and hence this Act is not necessary for such purpose.

I am of the opinion that the matter should be handled on a State basis, rather than on a limited local basis.

I agree with the recommendation of the Committee above referred to, and in order that the same can be carried out I am hereby vetoing this Act.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Strom Thurmond,
Governor

JST:erg

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